

**BY WIRE (BACKCHANNEL VIA CAS)**

**TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY**

**December 3, 1969**

**TO: Ambassador Bunker**

**FROM: Henry A. Kissinger**

1. With reference your 833, you will note in my 93049 that the President contemplates no offer concerning a cease-fire at this time.

2. I agree that it would be in order to report paragraphs 1 through 7 of your message through regular Nodis channel. Suggest that you highlight Thieu's reluctance about our putting forward a proposal on cease-fire, and his view that certain conditions would be a fundamental aspect of any such proposal. The President is anxious that we do not repeat not say anything to contribute to a new bureaucratic steamroller on this issue.

3. The President's thinking now is to complete the study of the situation in the countryside now under way here and to refer the results of this study to the NSC in January, with a view toward offering a cease-fire <sup>around</sup> by Tet -- if the situation suggests it at that time. You should work with Thieu to work out the specific conditions which would accompany such an offer.

MORI/CDF  
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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY.

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